

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church As She Should Be (part 7)

Proper Christian Concern for the Church

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

05/20/2018



17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. **18** Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. **19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? **20** For you are our glory and joy. **1 Thess. 2:17-20**



1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, ² and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to ESTABLISH you and ENCOURAGE you concerning your FAITH, ³ that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴ For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

Follow UP - Discipleship - Establishment - Encouragement

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

“to ESTABLISH you and ENCOURAGE you concerning your FAITH”

Follow UP - Discipleship - Establishment - Encouragement

To Establish and Encourage in YOUR FAITH?

→ FAITH → BOTH / AND ...

- 1. Your personal Trusting Relationship with God in Christ Jesus**
- 2. Your Belief System, based upon God’s Word – “the Faith”**

Paul was concerned about both -

- Personal Encouragement for #1 – It takes Practice and**
- Teaching for #2 (Established – Rooted Deeply – Firm Foundation)**

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

³ that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴ For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

Follow UP - Discipleship - Establishment - Encouragement

→ Suffering, Tribulation, Persecution BECAUSE we follow Christ: Paul said that he warned them while he was there with them. This must be Part and Parcel of our First Follow-up with those who come to Faith in Christ (truly Born Again – in Christ). They must be taught, repeatedly this – that we will be persecuted, in some way, for their faith in Christ, and following God's Holy Word. Especially, when we share the Gospel and God's Word with lost sinners.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. **4** For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

Follow UP - Discipleship - Establishment - Encouragement

[Jesus said,] **“BLESSED** are those who are **PERSECUTED** for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** **REJOICE** and be **EXCEEDINGLY GLAD**, for great is your **REWARD IN HEAVEN**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

(Matt. 5:10-12) → PROMISES of BLESSINGS – CLAIM IT

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

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Follow UP - Discipleship - Establishment - Encouragement

[Paul said,] ...

“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”
(Acts 14:21) → PROMISES of BLESSINGS – CLAIM IT



1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

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Follow UP - Discipleship - Establishment - Encouragement

[Paul said,] ...

**“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus
WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION.” (2 Timothy 3:12)**

Based up these 3 passages – I cannot find any best-selling books on the market with this subject – or encouragement from the pulpit to CLAIM these Promises. But these are Promises ... and we must include this in our teachings to ESTABLISH the church.

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

But now that Timothy has come to us FROM you, and BROUGHT us GOOD NEWS of your FAITH and LOVE, and that you always have good remembrance of us, GREATLY DESIRING TO SEE US, as we also to see you — ⁷ therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your FAITH. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand fast in the LORD. *(breathe a sigh of relief)* ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the JOY with which we REJOICE for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect *(mature, shore-up)* what is lacking in your faith?

1. Mutual - Good, Honest Communication between believers
2. Mutual Loving Concern for each other's walk in Christ
3. Earned Joy – when believers actually HAVE strong FAITH

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4. Question – Do we MISS Each other like this – and greatly DESIRE to see each other – during the week or the times between our Gatherings on Sundays or LIFE Group? – OR are we too busy with other things and have desires “for other things” too much so that we don’t?

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our LORD Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹² And may the LORD make you INCREASE and ABOUND in LOVE to *[for]* one another and to all, just as we do to you, ¹³ so that He may ESTABLISH your hearts BLAMELESS in HOLINESS before our God and Father at the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ with all His saints (*holy ones*).

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Paul mentions quite a number of times – the Return of Christ and of being BEFORE God's Throne (God the Father) in heaven. Why? As a Motivating Factor for Living a Blameless and Holy Life in Christ – while here on Earth – and consistently all the way into heaven. They were doing that already, he was encouraging them to continue onward without stopping

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1 John 3:1-3 - Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And EVERYONE who has this HOPE in Him PURIFIES himself, just as He is PURE.

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If one has This HOPE in Christ – being with Christ – being before the Throne of God in Heaven – that Hope – being Blameless & living a Holy Life in Christ (Holiness) – we will INCREASE and ABOUND in LOVE for One Another ... they were already doing all these things and being this in Christ – Paul was encouraging them to continue and to increase. For us, TODAY – both Paul and His Team – and the Thessalonian Church were and still are - EXAMPLES unto US in being Holy and Loving and Evangelistic, etc. Let's Be this Kind of Church, TODAY